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HOUSE MEMORIAL 112

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

Benjamin H. Rodefer

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO CREATE A
LEGISLATIVE INTERIM "FILM, ART AND CULTURE COMMITTEE".

WHEREAS, for centuries, New Mexico has celebrated rich and
varied cultural traditions that have generated historical and
modern treasures that enhance the quality of life for residents
and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, cultural and artistic pursuits abound in New
Mexico, including film, visual arts, music, dance and media and
other performing arts; and

WHEREAS, the arts and cultural activities contribute
significantly to New Mexico's economy, generating three billion
one hundred million dollars (\$3,100,000,000) in 2007; and

WHEREAS, according to the cultural affairs department,
these activities and venues generated fifty-eight thousand

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1 seven hundred seventy-two jobs; nine hundred twelve million
2 dollars (\$912,000,000) in salaries; two hundred thirty million
3 dollars (\$230,000,000) in tax revenues; and one billion fifty-
4 three million dollars (\$1,053,000,000) for the tourism industry
5 in that year; and

6 WHEREAS, since 2002, when the film production tax credit
7 was adopted, more than one hundred fifteen major films have
8 been produced in the state; and

9 WHEREAS, in 2007, thirty films were produced in New
10 Mexico, generating two hundred fifty-three million dollars
11 (\$253,000,000) in spending and creating three thousand eight
12 hundred twenty-nine jobs, sixty percent of which went directly
13 to New Mexicans; and

14 WHEREAS, in April 2005, Governor Richardson signed an
15 executive order creating the New Mexico music commission to
16 promote and preserve the state's musical heritage and to
17 celebrate every kind of music, including such diverse forms as
18 the ancient melodies of New Mexico's tribes and pueblos and
19 Mariachi, dance, opera, symphony orchestral and country music;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, the visual arts of New Mexico include prehistoric
22 baskets and pottery as well as the modern art found in
23 festivals and galleries all over the state; and

24 WHEREAS, New Mexico's public and private museums serve as
25 valuable venues for the appreciation of the state's cultural

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1 and artistic heritage; and

2 WHEREAS, preservation of the cultural integrity and
3 diversity of the state and the importance of film, art and
4 culture to the general welfare of New Mexicans should be
5 recognized and enhanced;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
7 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico
8 legislative council be requested to appoint a legislative
9 interim "film, art and culture committee" to study legislative
10 issues relating to film, art and culture; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
12 transmitted to the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative
13 council.